



## Arizona Department of Public Safety

**- For Immediate Release -**

Monday, January 26, 2009

### Arizona Department of Public Safety investigates two collisions resulting in four fatalities in four hour period *Collisions were outside of Wikieup and Casa Grande*

The first collision occurred on Sunday, January 25, at about 3:37 p.m. on US 93 at milepost 145.1 about 22 miles south of Wikieup in southeast Mohave County. This collision involved a 2003 Ford Explorer and a 2008 Toyota Scion. The Ford was traveling northbound on US 93 in the left lane when the driver lost control for an unknown reason resulting in the vehicle rolling over, colliding with the Toyota which was traveling northbound in the right lane, causing it to roll over. Both vehicles ended up off the roadway to the right. A total of seven occupants were in the Ford and two occupants in the Toyota. Three of the passengers in the Ford Explorer sustained fatal injuries. Deceased: Leslie S. Rodriguez, 16, Miguel Rodriguez, 16, and Josue Rodriguez, 8, all of Las Vegas, Nev. The driver of the Ford: Leticia Ovando-Deterraza, 37, Rene Rodriguez, 19, and Aliza Deterraza, 4, Las Vegas Nev., were treated and released from a Kingman area medical center and Lizet Yareli-Rodriguez, a three-month old infant, Las Vegas, Nev., was treated and released from a Phoenix area medical center. The driver of the Toyota: Luigi Sziklay, 56, and passenger: Patricia Sziklay, 53, Scottsdale Ariz. sustained serious injuries and were admitted to a Phoenix area medical center. Miguel Rodriguez was not restrained and was ejected from the vehicle. Luigi Sziklay was not restrained either.

The second collision occurred Sunday, January 25, at about 7:42 p.m. on I-10 eastbound at milepost 170.5 which is about 22 miles northwest of Casa Grande. It involved a 2002 Harley Davidson motorcycle that struck a tarp in the roadway which became entangled in the rear wheel. The driver lost control of the motorcycle which entered the center median where it overturned. The driver: Donald L. Morris, 59, of Eloy Ariz. was transported to a Phoenix area medical center. The passenger: Maria Patena, 30, of Eloy, Ariz. sustained fatal injuries. Donald Morris was wearing a Helmet, while it is still unclear whether Maria Patena was using a helmet.

The Department of Public Safety would like to remind those traveling the highways and roadways in Arizona to please wear your safety restraint and ensure any children in your vehicle are properly restrained as well. A safety restraint will ensure you stop with your car. Without it, you may end up being thrown from the vehicle if you are involved in a collision. Also, we would urge those riding motorcycles, All terrain vehicles (ATV) or Snow Mobiles to please wear a proper helmet which meets federal DOT standards. Many riders die from head injury following a collision, the use of a helmet greatly reduces the chance of serious head and neck injury.

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